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The Examiner further contends that the prior art shows the one compound alcohol and the fact that other actives are present does not improve the description of the barrier components as useful with one active. The Examiner concludes that the invention as claimed is evident in the prior art of record.

With respect first to the need to test the array of alcohols, since suffocation will of course kill any ectoparasite and the specification discloses how to apply the air-impermeable compositions of the invention, excessive experimentation is not required.

Also, since the groups on the alcohols of formula (I) for example that differ from benzyl alcohol are chemically inert, there is no reason to assume that any of these groups would cause the closely related alcohols of formula (I) to be inoperative for use in the invention, i.e. that they could not function to keep ectoparasites from closing their breathing apparatuses.

Concerning identification of the other components of the barrier compositions, these are not active components – the critical factors being a) that the compositions when formulated are air-impermeable (and hence any non-active components that would not prevent air-impermeability can be used in the present invention), and b) that they are formulated to prevent the ectoparasites from obtaining air through their breathing apparatuses. Enablement is clearly set forth for the method of the invention on pages 3 and 4 and Examples 15, 16, and 17 on pages 24-31 of the specification.

Concerning the prior art showing other actives, the present invention is based on air-impermeable compositions that suffocate the ectoparasites, and the presence of

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monohydric aralkyl alcohols that prevent the ectoparasites from closing their breathing apparatuses. Accordingly, since other actives are not needed in the present compositions, and the claims specifically exclude such other actives, the possibility of side effects and resistance developed by the ectoparasites to the other actives are eliminated, especially since the prior art compositions do not function by suffocating the ectoparasites.

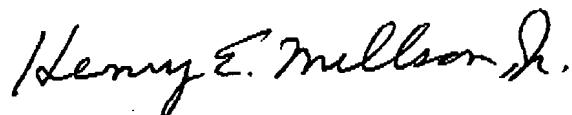
With respect to the claimed invention being evident from the prior art of record, none of the prior art, either singly or in combination, discloses a method for using compositions to kill ectoparasites in which:

- a) an air-impermeable composition is employed;
- b) containing at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol in amount sufficient to prevent the ectoparasites from closing their breathing apparatus;
- c) leaving the composition in contact with the skin and hair until the ectoparasites have been killed;
- d) achieving very high kill rates in short periods of time;
- e) since the mechanism of action includes suffocation, the ectoparasites cannot develop resistance to the compositions, which can and does occur with toxic chemical pesticides;
- f) wherein the compositions are safe and effective and are free from pesticides other than any pesticidal action exhibited by the aralkyl alcohols; and

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- g) the importance of complete saturation of the hair and skin in the infected areas as proven in the 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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